Steps to make NREGS a success

1767. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government's National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) is way behind yielding desired results as the scheme could not provide employment to all eligibles and in many cases the labourers did not get the stipulated rates of wages too;

(b) whether it is a fact that a survey showed that 4 out of 14 States of Bihar, Orissa, Gujarat and Haryana did not even constitute State Employment Guarantee Council though more than one year has passed; and

(c) if so, the steps the Government propose to take to make NREGS a success?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) No, Sir. NREGA is a demand driven programme. The number of households provided employment depends on the number of households who demand employment. Employment is to be provided within 15 days of the date from which the employment is demanded. During the year 2006-07, a total of 2.12 crore households demanded employment out of which 2.10 crore households were provided employment. During 2007-08 (Up to October, 07) 2.14 crore households have demanded employment and 2.11 crore households were provided employment. Wages under the Act are paid as per rates fixed by the State Governments under Section 3 of Minimum Wages Act, 1948 for agricultural labourers.

(b) State Government of Bihar has constituted its State Employment Guarantee Council. Its first meeting was held on 10.7.2007. Orissa, Gujarat and Haryana have however, not constituted their State Councils.

(c) For successful and effective implementation, the NREG Act is reviewed and monitored on regular basis. Vigilance and Monitoring Committee have been set up at State as well as district levels. Village level Vigilance and Monitoring Committees have also been set up for local monitoring. Members of the Central Employment Guarantee Council also undertake field visits to various districts. National level Monitors (NLMs) and Area Officers visit various districts to oversee the progress of the Act. So far, NLMs have made 331 visits to phase I and Phase II districts. The States which have not yet constituted their State Councils have been asked to constitute the same and convene their meetings.

PMGSY in Uttarakhand

†1768. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPEMNT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana "Beherakhal Mahadevsen-Jakhnoli Motor path in Uttarakhand" has been approved in the year 2004;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any proposal recently has been sent to the Government by the Alasu Rural Development Committee for the approval of this scheme; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) the details of the action being taken in this regard and by when the above construction work will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (d) Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) is under implementation as a fully funded centrally sposonred Plan scheme since 2000-01. The prime objective of the PMGSY is to provide all weather connectivity to all the unconnected habitations in the rural areas with a population of 500 or more persons in the plain areas and all unconnected habitations with population of 250 or more persons in Hill States, desert areas and tribal areas. The State Government of Uttarakhand has informed that no such road, namely, Beherakhal Mahadevsen-Jakhnoli Motor Path, has been sanctioned nor proposed under PMGSY. As per census report of the year 2001, the population of village Jakhnoli is 80 and it does not meet the prescribed criteria for connectivity under PMGSY. Village Mahadevsain is not found in the Census report. It is a place in Bhatkoti village of Kot Block. Population of Bhatkoti is only 136 and as such, not eligible for coverage under PMGSY as per the guidelines.

Proposal submitted by Orissa relating to PMGSY

†1769. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of proposals relating to Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana received by Central Government from State of Orissa so far;

(b) the number of projects out of them which have been completed;

(c) the number of projects which are still incomplete along with the district-wise details of the number of projects on which work has not started so far; and

(d) the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) Project proposals for 5553 road works have been submitted by the State of Orissa to the Central Government under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY). All these proposals have been sanctioned by the Ministry of Rural Development.

(b) 2268 nos. of road projects have been completed upto October, 2007.

(c) 1689 road works cleared under Phase VII of PMGSY have been put to tender. 134 road works are proposed to be dropped by the State Government. 1462 road works are incomplete, the district-wise details of which have been given in Statement (*See* below).

(d) Reasons for delay are slow progress by some of the contractors, problems relating to land availability and forest clearance, floods and unseasonal rains. Some projects are also locked up in litigation.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.